

Giving Novice and Advanced Class license holders an automatic upgrade due to holding their license for 20 years is absurd. In my opinion activity is more important, than the number of years someone's held a license. Being a ham for the past seven years, I have only talked to two novices. Testing, in part, helps ensure that the holder of the license is familiar with the rules, regulations, and operating practices, accustomed to their license class. Whether someone reads the theory or just memorizes the question pool answers, they are at least going to pick up some knowledge. This not only benefits the Novice and Advanced class license holders, but also the other license classes that they would share the bands with. I am sure that the Department of Motor Vehicles in every state, would not give you a CDL license to drive a tractor-trailer just because someone held a driver's license for 20 years.

As the volunteer exam team leader for a local radio club, we already give instant upgrades under the VEC program to pre-1987 Technicians as they already have passed the General theory. Giving instant upgrades to Novice and Advanced Class license holders, would present an additional burden to the VE's and VEC. From my experience, if the holder does not have his/her original license, it would be hard to prove when the license was issued.

I therefore recommend that the commission dismiss petition RM-10620.

Respectfully,

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